



Miscellanea

IT is our pleasant duty to record that our Honorary Secretary, Mr. Frank Simpson, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. The Archdeacon of Chester and Mr. Henry Taylor were present at the meeting of the Society at Burlington House, and took part in the interesting, but somewhat lengthy, proceedings when the ballot was taken. To be nominated for election does not necessarily secure success, though the nomination paper may have many signatures, and one of those balloted for on this occasion did not secure election, for which more than a mere majority is required.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS 1912-13

ANNUAL EXCURSION

THE Annual Excursion of the Society took place on Thursday, July 17th, 1913, when fifty members (and among them the Mayor and Mayoress of Chester) and their friends availed themselves of the opportunity provided of visiting many places of interest in the eastern part of the county. The party included several members of the Architects' Association, and started from the General Station at 9-53 for Crewe, where three brakes were in waiting for them and conveyed them to Sandbach. The drive was through a pleasant park-like country, passing the villages of Crewe Green and Wheelock, and the party was greeted with lusty cheers from the children of the various schools which they passed.

At Sandbach, the ancient Crosses in the Market-place were first inspected, and here Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., gave a short description of them, referring to the mention of them made by the Bishop of Bristol in his paper before the Society, and pointing out the different subjects carved on them. These include the Nativity, Virgin and Child, Christ before Pilate, the Crucifixion, Christ in Glory, St. Peter, etc., while the symbols of the Evangelists are also figured. Mr. Romilly Allen, in a paper before the Society twenty years ago, spoke of these mutilated crosses as containing probably the finest series of figure-subjects in all England. It was felt by many that some protection ought to be given to the Crosses—and they should be surrounded with some chains or railing of a suitable character. Leaving the Crosses, a visit was paid to the Old Hall Inn, where certain panelled rooms of the seventeenth century were seen, with mantelpieces of the same date carved and in good preservation.

The drive was then resumed to Brereton Church and Hall. The former contains monuments of the Brereton family, including one of Lord Brereton, but the fresco which it once contained of the murder of Thomas-a-Becket has long since disappeared. It may be pointed out that one of the four knights connected with the martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury was a Brereton (the name is variously spelt). The Hall is a mansion of the date of Queen Elizabeth, and is described by old chroniclers as a magnificent and sumptuous house. The date over the door is 1586, but the foundation-stone was said to have been laid by Queen Elizabeth in 1577. The Queen's bedroom is shown, and her arms are also to be seen in the richly-panelled dining-room. Some of the party mounted the tower, which is a conspicuous feature of the edifice. Mr. and Mrs. Moir, who reside at the Hall, were most kind in their attentions.

Leaving Brereton, it was found necessary to go on straight to Congleton, and so to omit the visit to the half-timber church at Marton, which was part of the programme. This was unfortunate, as it is a very good specimen of that type of architecture, and quite as good as Lower Peover Church, which was inspected in 1912.

At Congleton, luncheon was served in the Masonic Hall, after which the party adjourned to the Town Hall, where the Mayor (Dr. W. I. Fern), Mr. Robert Head, and others were in attendance. Here the Corporation plate and records had been carefully arranged, and were displayed for the edification of the visitors. It was interesting to hear that our former editorial secretary, Mr. Earwaker, had given the greatest possible assistance in the arranging of the records and in binding the several volumes. The several Charters were on exhibition, and were carefully examined by some. It would be impossible to give here a full description of the treasures which were on view, but mention may be made of two; the Corporation mace, of the time of the Commonwealth, which with its design and inscription received close examination. Then there were certain little bells fastened to collars of leather, which have a unique history. Their origin is supposed to be connected with the Church of St. Peter (dedicated to St. Peter ad Vincula), the jangling of the bells in processions at festivals recalling the rattling of the chains. They were recovered from a family of sweeps (who used them on their May-day rounds), and are now preserved among the treasures of the borough. Before leaving for Astbury, the Archdeacon voiced the feelings of the company by tendering a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor and civic authorities, and to Mr. Head, for the pains they had taken in preparing for them such an interesting display.

At Astbury, the church was visited, and a short description of it read by Mr. Simpson, after which, under the guidance of the clerk, the various points of interest were

visited, including the Egerton and Davenport monuments, and the striking chancel screen with its return stalls. The font cover, too, of Jacobean date, is very handsome, as is also the altar of the same period, which might well be left free of frontals. The roof bears the date of 1616, with the names of the "carpenter" and of the persons who, at that time, were "posts" (*praepositi*) of the parish, representing the eight principal landowners. The church is very lofty, and the east window exceptionally large. In the roof above the rood screen is a pendant, which may have held a figure, or possibly the Sanctus Bell. A somewhat similar pendant, immediately above the east window, has the symbols of the Five Wounds carved upon its base. Some ancient tombs in the churchyard were also inspected. The appearance of the church from the outside is somewhat remarkable, the tower, with its elegant spire, being apart from the body of the church, though connected with its west front by stone buildings.

Leaving Astbury, a short drive brought us to Old Moreton Hall, one of the finest specimens of a half-timber Manor House that the county, or indeed the country, possesses. The house is surrounded by a moat, which is crossed by a stone bridge leading to the entrance gateway, which introduces the visitor into a quadrangle. It is impossible to describe adequately the picturesque effect of the whole building, which has been well cared for and is in an excellent state of preservation. The want of uniformity in the design and the varying heights of the roof relieve the building from that monotony which is so often found. On one side there is a break in the buildings, letting in light and air; while the timbers are so arranged as to give a wonderful variety. The visitors were able to roam through the different rooms, with their carved mantelpieces and rich panelling and various inscriptions. The gallery, a room seventy-five feet long and twelve feet broad, extending the whole length of one side, on the top

storey, and with an open timbered roof, attracted much attention. The whole wall space is occupied with windows and panelling beneath, while the gable ends are covered with moulded plaster work and figures, still coloured representing Destiny and Fortune, and tablets with inscriptions, which clearly place the date in later Elizabethan days, though other parts of the edifice are of the time of Henry VII. The purpose of this room is still a matter of conjecture. It is inconveniently situated for a ballroom; it may have formed a convenient place for walking in when the weather outside was inclement. The little chapel in the oldest part of the building, to the right of the gatehouse, is entered from the courtyard; the sanctuary is screened off with opening glass doors, and the chapel is used occasionally for service by the Rector of Odd Rode.

The company assembled for tea in the panelled drawing-room, and so had the privilege of being entertained in the same room where King George and Queen Mary had tea on their recent visit to the Marquis of Crewe. The hall, with its many rooms and its beautifully-designed timber-work, is most fascinating, and everyone felt that they could well have spent a whole day in examining all its details. Still, they were amply repaid by what they did see, the only regret being that the Bishop of Derby, the present owner, was unable to be present, as he had hoped to be.

The company then resumed their carriages, and drove to Crewe, past Rode Hall, through Lawton and Alsager, and arrived home at 8-30 p.m. During the day, four new members were elected, and it is hoped that this most interesting Excursion may lead to a still further increase of membership.

E. B.

The following was sent to the Archdeacon by Mr. Head a few days after the Excursion, and it is reproduced here

as containing interesting information well worthy of being preserved:—

Apropos the visit of the Chester Archæological Society to Congleton, the following information referring to the Town Maces may be read with interest. But it is worth mentioning that the gorgeous Mace of Cromwell's time created less interest amongst the visitors than the Sweeps' Bells (as we call them!).

Congleton was incorporated and made into a Borough by Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in the reign of Henry III., and again in that of Edward I., the right to hold market and fair was granted. Other Charters were granted under the Seal of the Duchy (of Lancaster) by Henry VIII., and Philip and Mary, and confirmed by Elizabeth in 1577, in which year Alexander Latham was Mayor, William Brereton the Steward, and Edward Fitton, of Gawsworth, the Senior Burgess. The Governing Charter of the town was granted by James I. in 1624-5, and remained in force until the passing of the Municipal Reform Act in 1835. By James I.'s Charter there were to be appointed two Sergeants-at-Mace, one to be chosen by the Mayor and Corporation, and to be named the Catchpole, the other to be chosen by the Mayor, and named the Mayor's Sergeant. They were to attend and carry before the Mayor two silver-gilt Maces, engraven with the Royal Arms. The Catchpole is also named in Henry de Lacy's Charter; his duties as defined by the Charter of 1624-5 were to serve all writs, processes, etc.; whilst the duty of the Mayor's Sergeant was keeper of the gaol. The insignia consists of a great and lesser Maces, and the Corporate and other Seals. There is also an Old China Punch or Sack Bowl.

The great Mace of Congleton is of silver-gilt and measures 41½ inches in length. In general form it resembles the usual late type, with arched crown on the head. The Staff has a handsomely-wrought foot-knob, as well as two other gad-rooned and beaded knobs dividing it into three sections, of which the uppermost and shortest has four open-work brackets below the Mace-head. The sections of the Staff are covered with a spiral pattern of oak foliage and acorns. The Mace-

head is divided into four panels, containing respectively the Borough Arms, a crowned rose, a crowned harp, and "C.R." Above the panels is a band inscribed :—

"THE FREEDOME OF ENGLAND BY GOD'S BLESSING
RESTORED TO C.R., 1661."

The coronet surmounting the Mace-head is formed of cables, small shields, and other ornaments, with a jewelled circlet below. From it rise the arches of the crown, which are four ornate scrolls curling over, and supporting a cushion of ornate scroll work, on which rest the orb and cross. On the cap within the crown are the Royal Arms of Charles II., crowned, and with the lion and unicorn supporters. On the top of the Mace-head are the London hall-marks for 1651-2, and the maker's mark, a shield with "IV," and a pellet in base.

The remarkable fact about this Mace is that it was made during the Commonwealth. This is not only proved by the hall-marks, but the late Mr. John Wilson, Town Clerk of Congleton, found amongst the Borough Records a memorandum of items "to be annexed to the accounts of John Buckley, alderman for the yeare of our lord god, 1651," containing the following entry, which places the matter beyond all doubt: "Payd to Alderman Richard Parnell for money layd downe for the mace 25 00 00." Careful examination of the Mace itself shows that it has received certain alterations to convert it from a parliamentary bauble into an emblem of royal authority; the Royal Arms on the top and the badges round the Mace-head, which are removable by screws, having evidently replaced some non-regal devices. It will be noticed that the crown is not formed of the royal crosses and fleurs-de-lis, but is entirely of a nondescript character.

The legend round the head originally ran :—

"THE FREEDOME OF ENGLAND BY GOD'S
BLESSING RESTORED * * 1651"

but by inserting "TO" in the space between "RESTORED" and the date, altering the "5" of the latter to "6," and squeezing in "CR" a little above the line, an inscription

which commemorated the abolition of the monarchy was ingeniously converted into a memorial of its restoration. The following entries from the accounts of George Forde, Mayor in 1661, give us the date and cost of the alterations to the Mace:—

“ 15 June. Spent on myselfe, John Goddad, Mr. Walley, and Richard Hall, and ye goldsmyth and his friend, beeing 6 in number, at Middlewych, about
renewing ye mace 00 10 08
 “ 15 Oct. Payd to ye Goldsmyth for *Altering ye Mace* 03 00 00 ”

and in 1662 is an entry:—

“ Recd. from ye Goldsmyth for old Gold & Silver yt Mr fford sold .. 00 04 00 ”

The lesser Mace is of silver, and fourteen inches long. It consists of a plain Staff, divided by moulded and reeded bands into three nearly equal sections, and terminating at each end in a bell-shaped Mace-head, ornamented with acanthus leaves. The upper is distinguished from the lower by an ornate band of leafwork at its base; it also bears an engraving of the Royal Arms of James I., crowned, and between the letters I. R. The lower end of the Mace is quite plain. There are no hall-marks, but the date is certainly *temp.* James I.

Congleton Chronicle.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

THE Council beg to submit their Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1913.

Six Meetings have been held during the year, when the following Papers were read, viz. :—

22nd October, 1912—Mr. Frank Simpson—

“The City Guilds or Companies of Chester” (relating principally to that of the Smiths, Cutlers, and

Plumbers' Company), illustrated by Lantern Slides, including the Arms of most of the Chester Companies.

19th November, 1912—Prof. Robert Newstead, F.R.S., and Dr. J. Elliott—

“The Discovery of the Roman Cemetery in the Infirmary Field, Chester,” illustrated by Lantern Slides and Coloured Photographs.

17th December, 1912—Mr. R. Stewart-Brown, M.A., F.S.A.—

“Notes on the Chester Hand or Glove, now in the Liverpool Public Museum.” (The original Hand was exhibited).

21st January, 1913—

At this Meeting the Venerable Archdeacon Barber reported on the work done at the Cathedral Cloisters. The Mayor of Chester commented on the last Report of “The Inspector of Ancient Monuments” on the Gateway Tower, formerly called Julius Cæsar’s Tower, and now erroneously called the Keep.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. Simpson) and the Hon. Librarian (Mr. James Hall) reported on the Society’s exhibits, etc., and Messrs. Lowe & Sons submitted a small collection of old Chester silver, and a Chester Sheriff’s Pocket Mace of 1766. Several Members brought for inspection interesting exhibits of local objects.

18th February, 1913—Prof. J. C. Bridge, M.A., F.S.A.—

“Items of Expenditure from the 16th Century Accounts of the Painters, Glaziers, Embroiderers, and Stationers’ Company, with special reference to the Shepherds’ Play.”

1st April, 1913—Mr. J. H. E. Bennett—

“Two Elizabethan Chamberlains of the Palatinate of Chester,” illustrated by Lantern Slides.

The thanks of the Council are due to the Members of the Working Committee (The Mayor of Chester, Prof. Newstead, Mr. F. Simpson, Mr. James Hall, and Mr. T. A. Williams), for their care in watching the archæological interests of the City; through their suggestions many valuable objects of interest have been preserved.

The Annual Summer Excursion took place on Wednesday, July 10th, 1912, to Knutsford and district. The party arriving at Plumbley Station drove to Lower Peover, where they were conducted over the ancient half-timbered Church by the Vicar. They then proceeded to Over Peover, and were received by Lady Mainwaring and Sir Harry Mainwaring. The Church was first visited, and the party were afterwards conducted to the old Stables by Sir Harry, and an absolutely unique sight was presented to them in viewing the Stables with their ornamental ceilings, and afterwards certain parts of the Old Hall. Driving to Knutsford, luncheon was taken at the King's Café, an opportunity being taken here of reading an account of the Parish and of the Church, prepared by the Vicar. The Church was visited, and also the Unitarian Chapel and the grave of Mrs. Gaskell, and the party afterwards proceeded in conveyances to Mobberley (inspecting on their way the Burne Jones windows at St. Cross Church). On arriving, they were received and conducted over the Church by the Vicar (Rev. G. C. Dicker), leaving Mobberley by the train arriving at Chester 5-50 p.m., after a most instructive and successful expedition.

In July last, the Rev. F. Sanders—in consequence of ill-health—resigned his office of Hon. Editorial Secretary to the Society, which was accepted with regret, and the Council subsequently appointed the Rev. F. G. Slater of Ince Parsonage, who kindly consented to accept the position.

It is with great regret that the Council record the death of the Rev. F. Sanders, M.A., F.S.A., who rendered such

valuable services to the Society for many years in the capacity of Hon. Editorial Secretary, his death occurring on November 24th, 1912, only four months after resigning his position with the Society.

During the past year some very interesting Roman finds have been made on the site of the Chester Infirmary extension. Reference to this will appear in the Society's *Journal*.

The Council have elected the following representatives of the Society upon the Chester Public Library Committee: The Lord Bishop of Chester, Mr. Frank Simpson, and Mr. James Hall.

Part I. of Volume XIX. of the *Journal* of the Society has been published during the year, and Part II. is now ready and will be issued to the Members in a few days.

The Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts is annexed. Commencing with a credit balance of £10 14s. 1d. and adding the Income received £122 4s. 2d., less Expenditure £120 6s. 10d., the balance to carry forward is £12 11s. 5d., but against this the cost of Part II. of Volume XIX. of the *Journal* is not included, as it is not yet ascertained.

Mr. F. Simpson has been appointed Honorary Secretary to the Society.

Under Rule 4, the following Members of the Council retire, but are eligible for re-election:—Mr. Horace F. Davies, Mr. J. Sheriff Roberts, and Mr. James Williams; there is also a vacancy on the Council through the retirement of Mr. F. W. Longbottom.

The Hon. Auditors, Mr. A. G. Ayrton and Mr. W. W. Tasker, also retire, and are eligible for re-election.

Nominations for the vacancies should reach the Secretary not later than Wednesday, the 14th of May.

THE HON. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1913.

I have pleasure in submitting the following particulars :—

During the past year the total number of readers according to the Visitors' Book amounts to thirty-four; and the total number of books and MSS. consulted in the Library reaches fifty-one. Of these, nineteen books were on local history; and on thirteen occasions the Earwaker MS. collections have been referred to.

Twenty-nine volumes have been lent during the year to eleven members under the Library Rule and have been duly returned. No loss is to be reported.

In regard to additions to the presses, it may here be mentioned that four volumes of *The Cheshire Sheaf*, viz., vols. v., vi., vii. and viii., have been purchased and bound uniformly with the earlier volumes, by the Society; thereby making that useful publication complete up to date.

Appended is the full list of additions to the Library by exchanges, gifts, or purchases, for the past year, carefully drawn up by the Curator (Mr. Alfred Newstead) who has entered the several items on the card-catalogue; and to whom are due the thanks of the Council.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Agreement respecting certain Lands and Tenements (no date). Press 20.
Drawer E.

"Archæologia Cambrensis," Vol. XII., Parts 3 and 4 (1912); Vol. XIII.,
Part I. (1913).

Baluster Stemmed Glasses (English). Francis Buckley. *Donor*, the
Author, 1912.

Belfast Public Art Gallery and Museum, Irish Tokens. *Donors*, Members
of Committee, 1913.

Buckinghamshire, Records of, Vol. X, No. 3 (1912).

- Cambridge, Proceedings of the Antiquarian Society, Nos. LXII.-LXIII., (1912).
- Chester and North Wales Archæological and Historical Society, Journal of, Vol. XIX., Part I. (1912). (2 copies).
- Dee (River), Act of Parliament to recover and preserve the Navigation of: will destroy the Navigation, and occasion the drowning of all the low lands adjacent to the said river, from observations of the ruinous effects at the ports of Lyn, Rye, Wisbech, and Spalding. Illustrated with a map of the rivers named. Second Edition, Printed at Chester, 1735. Press 20, Drawer E.
- Essex, Archæological Society, Vols. XII.-XIII. Part IV. (1912).
- Fornvännen Meddelanden fran K. Vitterhets. Historie och Antikvitets Akademien (1911).
- Indexes, Subject, to Old Series C.A.S. Journals (Vols. I.-III., 1849-85); New Series (Vols. I.-XVIII., 1887-1911), 2 copies.
- Index Library, Parts 127-129 (1912).
- Index Library, Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem, Vol. II., Part 130 (1912). Purchased.
- Ireland, Royal Society of Antiquaries of, Index to Vol. XLI., (1911); Vol. XLII. (1912); (1913).
- Knutsford, The Poet Gray and, An unpublished pedigree; contains also Elegy written in a Country Churchyard. By "Cedric II." *Donor*, Mr. H. Hulme, July 7th, 1911.
- Lancashire and Cheshire, Historic Society of, Vol. LXIII. (1911).
- Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society, Chester Marriage Licences, Vol. V., 1661-67. (65.) 1912.
- Letter written by Samuel Speed, 1621. Press 20, Drawer E.
- Letter written by Lennox Beverley, of Huntington, to Randle Holme, Mayor of the City of Chester, Feb. 10th, 1643. Press 20, Drawer E.
- Liverpool, University of, Annals of Archæology and Anthropology, Vol. V., Nos. 1-4 (1912-13).
- London, Royal Society of Antiquaries of, Vol. XXIV. (1911-12).
- Map, Palatine County of Chester, by C. & J. Greenwood. *Donor*, Mr. John E. Pritchard.
- Montgomeryshire and its Borders, Collection Historical and Archæological relating to, Part LXXI. (1912).
- Musical Festival, Triennial, Chester, July 25th-27th, 1894, Book of Words, July 21st to 23rd, 1897. *Donor*, Professor J. C. Bridge.
- Poll Book, Copy of, in all the Seven Hundreds within the County of Chester; for Knights of the Shire to serve in Parliament for the said County, The Poll began the 30th August and ended the 1st of September, 1727. *Donor*, Harry Barnston, Esq.
- Pottery in York Museum, Thos. May. *Donor*, the Author (Reprint), (1911, 1912).

- Receipt for money from Sir Robert Howard (Auditor) for the Use and Service for the Chester Garrison, by Geoffrey Shakerley (Governor), February 27th, 1674. Press 20, Drawer E.
- Rostherne and Tatton, in the County of Chester. Bygone, from the "Knutsford Guardian." March 30th, August 9th, 1910, H. Hulme ("Cedric II.") *Donor*, the Author.
- Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, 1, 2, 3 Reports, 1910-12. *Presented by* R. A. Yerburgh, Esq., M.P.
- Royal Commission on Public Records, 1st Report ; Appendices to 1st Report. Minutes of evidence with Appendices and Index, Vol. I., Parts I.-III. (1912). *Donor*, R. A. Yerburgh, Esq., M.P.
- Scotland, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Vol. XLVII. (1911-12).
- Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Vol. II., Parts II. and III. (1912-13); Vol. III., Parts I. and II. (1912-13).
- Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Proceedings of, Vol. LVIII. (1913).
- Stage (English), Its Origin and Modern Developments. A Critical and Historic Study by D. E. Oliver. *Donor*, Mr. W. W. Tasker.
- Stockholm, Guide to the National Historical Museum (1912).
- Surrey, Archaeological Collections, Vol. XXV. (1912).
- Thoresby Society, Vol. XX, Part I. (1911).
- " " Leeds Parish Registers, 1722-57.
- United States National Museum, Annual Report of (1911).
- Wales (Northern) as it was and as it is. The Heart of ; Being an account of the Prehistorical and Historical Remains of Aberconway and the neighbourhood. W. Bezant Lowe (1912). Purchased.
- Wirral, Hundred of ; Perambulation of, in the County of Chester. Harold Edgar Young. Introduction by Wm. Fergusson Irvine, 1909. *Donor*, Mr. F. W. Longbottom.
- Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, Part 85 (1912); Index to Paver's Marriage Licences (1567-1630); Part 86, (1912); Catalogue of Manuscripts.

JAMES HALL,

Hon. Librarian.

March 31st 1913.

THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1913.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
1912.	£ s. d.	1912.	£ s. d.
107 2 0	To Subscriptions	60 0 0	By Grosvenor Museum Management Committee
5 0 0	" Donations—His Grace The Duke of Westminster	18 0 1	" Printing, Postages, Stationery, Advertising, and Insurance
1 1 0	Rev. H. Grantham	3 12 5	Subscriptions to kindred Societies
11 3 8	" Dividend on London and North-Western Railway Stock	1 3 0	Purchase of Antiquarian objects
0 10 0	" Sale of Family Lecture Tickets	4 2 11	Expenses re Ancient Boat
0 16 0	" Admittance to Lectures and Miscellaneous Receipts	82 1 0 (Vol. XVIII.)	Printing and Publishing Part I. of Vol. XIX. of Journal
125 12 8		15 15 0	Secretary's Salary
81 6 2	Surplus brought forward from last Account	11 10 4	Miscellaneous Expenses
£206 18 10		196 4 9	
		10 14 1	Balance to credit, carried forward
		£132 18 3	£132 18 3

MAY 9th, 1913—Audited and found correct.

W. W. TASKER,
ALFRED AYRTON.